

MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On pages 3 of the specification, the second paragraph is deleted and replaced with:

Moreover, assays for free protein S based on immobilized monoclonal antibodies directed to free protein S, which are used as immobilized antibody in standard ELISA (Enzyme Linked Immuno Sorbent Assay) to capture free protein S in plasma, have been described in the literature and are also commercially available from Stago (Amiral et al., Blood Coag. Fibrinol. 1994, 5:179-186, and Wolf et al., Blood Coag. Fibrinol. 1994, 5:187-192). In such tests, plasma dilutions in buffer containing calcium are incubated in [micrometer] microtiter plates containing monoclonal antibodies specific for free protein S, and, subsequent to washing steps, protein S bound to the bound to the monoclonal antibodies can be detected with the use of a second mono- or polyclonal antibody directed to protein S. However, such assay are extremely expensive. Furthermore, the antibodies used in these tests are not well characterized and they have not been raised specifically against any region of protein S suggested to be involved in the binding of C4BP to protein S. Rather, these antibodies have been raised against the entire protein S molecule, whereafter antibodies having specificity for free protein S have been selected.

On page 22 of the specification, Table 1 is deleted and replaced with:

--Table 1. Synthetic peptides

Designation	Amino acid residue sequence	hPS [seq. id. no] <u>SEQ ID NO</u>
BD4	LDGCIRSWNLMKQGASGIKEIIQEKQNKHCLVT	405-437 (<u>SEQ ID NO:1</u>)
BD6	YNGCMEVNINGVQLDLDEAISKHNDIRAHSCPSV	595-628 (<u>SEQ ID NO:2</u>)
SL1	KPENGLLETKVYFAGFPRK	374-392 (<u>SEQ ID NO:3</u>)
SL2	EKGSYYPGSGIAQFHIDYNNVS	439-460 (<u>SEQ ID NO:4</u>)
SL3	SDQQSHLEFRVNNLEKSTPLK	527-550 (<u>SEQ ID NO:5</u>)
SL4	DKAMKAKVATYLGGLPDVPFSAT	567-589 (<u>SEQ ID NO:6</u>)
SL5	LVTVEKGSYYPGSGIAQ	435-451 (<u>Residues 1-17 of</u> <u>SEQ ID NO:7</u>)
SL6	SGIAQFHIDYNNVSSAEGWHVN	447-468 (<u>Residues 13-34 of</u> <u>SEQ ID NO:7</u>)
SL7	LVTVEKGSYYPGSGIAQFHIDYNNVSSAEGWHV N	435-468 (<u>SEQ ID NO:7</u>)--

On page 29 of the specification, the Abstract is deleted and replaced with:

The present invention [is concerned with] relates to an assay for free protein S comprising the addition of a ligand specific for free protein S to a biological fluid sample to form a protein S/ligand complex, and subsequent determination of the amount of [said] the complex formed in the sample. The ligand specific for free protein S is comprised of the C4b binding protein (C4BP), or part thereof, or a compound comprising an amino acid residue sequence that binds specifically to the binding site for C4BP in protein S. The present invention [is] further [concerned with] relates to antibodies specific for free protein S, which can be used as ligands in the assay of the invention, and with protein S related polypeptides, which can be used to produce such antibodies. In addition, the present invention is related to diagnostic test systems, suitable in kit form, comprising the present ligand and at least one further reagent required in the assay for free protein S.

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